



Express Mail No. EL676353797US

Docket No. 64135

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

I hereby declare that my residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated next to my name.

I believe I am an original, first and joint Inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the Invention entitled: ARRANGEMENT FOR ELIMINATING, OR AT LEAST FOR REDUCING THE SIZE OF, INTERSPACES BETWEEN THREE ELEMENTS ARRANGED ONE BEHIND THE OTHER IN THE LONGITUDINAL DIRECTION the specification of which is attached hereto.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification including the claims.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with 37 CFR 1.56(a).

I hereby appoint William B. Ritchie, Registration No. 33,118, as my attorney with full power of substitution and revocation to prosecute my above-identified application for Letters Patent and to transact all business in the Patent Office connected therewith.

I further direct that correspondence concerning this application be directed to William B. Ritchie, McLane, Graf, Raulerson & Middleton, Professional Association, 900 Elm St., P.O. Box 326, Manchester, New Hampshire 03105-0326, Telephone (603) 625-6464.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 USC 1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Full Name of first inventor: Raimar Boehlke

Signature:

Date:

05/14/2001

Residence:

Nelkenweg 7, D-83064 Raubling, Germany

Citizen of:

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as above

Address:

Full Name of second inventor: Werner Schwarz

Signature:

Date:

05/14/2001

Residence:

Zellerstrasse 28, D-83324 Ruhpolding, Germany

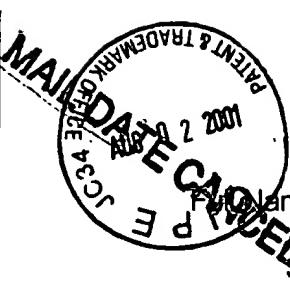
Citizen of:

Germany

Post Office

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Address:



Full name of third inventor

Professor Dr. Thomas Ischinger

Thomas Ischinger
8/17/01

Signature:

Date:

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Full Name of fourth inventor: Thomas Ehrl

Thomas Ehrl
8/17/2001

Signature:

Date:

Residence:

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Dollendorfstrasse 32, D-45144 Essen, Germany

Germany

as above



Express Mail No. EL676353707US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of)
Raimar Boehlke et al.)
Serial No. _____)
Filed: May 3, 2001)

For: ARRANGEMENT FOR ELIMINATING, OR AT LEAST FOR REDUCING THE SIZE OF, INTERSPACES BETWEEN THREE ELEMENTS ARRANGED ONE BEHIND THE OTHER IN THE LONGITUDINAL DIRECTION

**VERIFIED DECLARATION OF SMALL ENTITY STATUS
UNDER 37 CFR 1.9(f) AND 1.27(b)
INDEPENDENT INVENTOR**

As below named inventor, I hereby declare that I qualify as an independent inventor as defined in 37 CFR 1.9(c) for purposes of paying reduced fees under Section 41(a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code, to the Patent and Trademark Office with regard to above-referenced patent application filed herewith.

I have not assigned, granted, conveyed or licensed and am under no obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey, or license, any rights in the invention to any person who could not be classified as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(c) if that person had made the invention, or to any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).

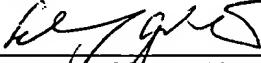
I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as small entity is no longer appropriate (37 CFR 1.28(b)).

I hereby declare that all statements made of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 USC 1001, and may jeopardize the validity of the Application, any Patent issuing thereon, or any Patent to which this verified statement is directed.



Signature of First Inventor

05/14/2001
Date



Signature of Second Inventor

05/14/2001
Date



Signature of Third Inventor

5/17/01
Date



Signature of Fourth Inventor

05/14/2001
Date